



Making Postsecondary Plans

Exploring Institutional Graduation Rates

An exercise for students to compare college options by graduation rates, affordability, gender, and race using practical online tools. Students can use the nationally-vetted sources and tools to inform their college exploration.

Exploring Institutional Graduation Rates

Online Tools for College Exploration

[College Affordability and Transparency Center](#)

The College Affordability and Transparency Center (CATC) was designed by the U.S. Department of Education to meet requirements in the Higher Education Opportunity Act and to provide better information to student and parent consumers about college costs. It serves as a central point to several tools that allow users to compare colleges tuition and fees, net price, and other characteristics. The CATC is maintained by the Office of Postsecondary Education with support and technical assistance from the National Center of Education Statistics.

-description taken directly from organization website

[College Navigator](#)

College Completion is a microsite produced by The Chronicle of Higher Education with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Its goal is to share data on completion rates in American higher education in a visually stimulating way. This microsite is a tool to help you navigate a complex subject: which colleges do the best job of graduating their students?

-description taken directly from organization website

[College Results Online](#)

College Results Online (CRO) is an interactive, user-friendly web tool designed to provide policy-makers, counselors, parents, students, and others with information about college graduation rates for nearly any four-year college or university in the country. This information reveals that some colleges do a much better job of graduating students than others. It also shows that at many colleges, significant gaps exist in graduation rates between white students and students of color. But, it also provides powerful examples of colleges that prove that low graduation rates - especially for diverse students - are not inevitable.

-description taken directly from organization website

Institution Comparison Chart

Utilizing the online tools, compare graduation rates and other criteria for the colleges you are exploring. Fill in the chart and reflect on the questions below.

College/ University	4-Yr Graduation Rate	6-Yr Graduation Rate	Specific Gender Graduation Rate	Specific Race Graduation Rate	Average Net Price	Net Price Calculator Estimate

Reflection Questions

- What do I **SEE**?
- What else do I **NEED** to know?
- Why is *College Choice* important?
- Do I know my *Expected Family Contribution* (EFC)?
- So now **WHAT**?